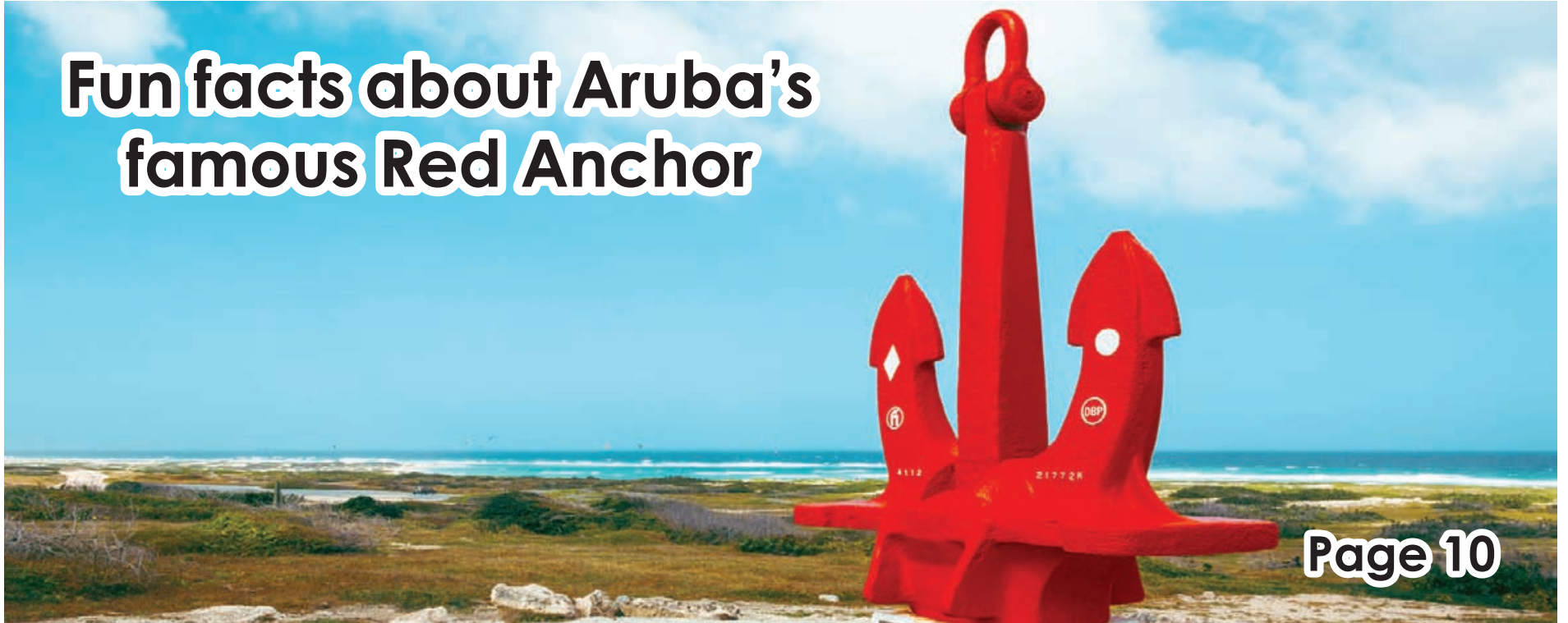




Fun facts about Aruba's famous Red Anchor



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Trump says U.S. would be on 'brink of economic catastrophe' unless justices rule his tariffs are legal

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
and **MARK SHERMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is seeking a swift and definitive decision on tariffs from the Supreme Court that he helped shape, saying the country would be on "the brink of economic catastrophe" without the import taxes he has imposed on U.S. rivals and allies alike.

The administration used near-apocalyptic terms that are highly unusual in Supreme Court filings as it asked the justices late Wednesday to intervene and reverse an appeals court ruling that found most of Trump's tariffs are an illegal use of an emergency powers law. The tariffs remain in place, for now.

The case comes to a court that has so far been reluctant to check Trump's extraordinary flex of executive power. One big question is whether the justices' own expansive view of presidential authority allows for Trump's tariffs without the explicit approval of Congress, which the Constitution endows with the power over tariffs. Three of the justices on conservative-majority court were



President Donald Trump speaks during an event to announce new tariffs in the Rose Garden at the White House, on April 2, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

nominated by Trump in his first term.

The tariffs and their erratic rollout have shaken global markets, alienated U.S. trading partners and allies, and raised fears of higher prices and slower economic growth.

But the Republican president has also used the trade penalties to pressure the European Union, Japan and others into accepting

new deals. Revenue from tariffs totaled \$159 billion by late August, more than double what it was at the same point a year earlier. Raising the stakes even higher, Solicitor General D. John Sauer urged the Supreme Court to decide in a week's time whether to hear the case and hold arguments the first week of November. That is far faster than the pace of the typi-

cal Supreme Court case. "The President and his Cabinet officials have determined that the tariffs are promoting peace and unprecedented economic prosperity, and that the denial of tariff authority would expose our nation to trade retaliation without effective defenses and thrust America back to the brink of economic catastrophe," Sauer wrote.

He wrote that it is not just trade that is at issue, but also the nation's ability to reduce the flow of fentanyl and efforts to end Russia's war against Ukraine.

The tariffs will almost certainly remain in effect until a final ruling from the Supreme Court. But the Republican administration nevertheless called on the high court to intervene quickly and reverse the ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. "That decision casts a pall of uncertainty upon ongoing foreign negotiations that the President has been pursuing through tariffs over the past five months, jeopardizing both already negotiated framework deals and ongoing negotiations," Sauer wrote. "The stakes in this case could not be higher."

The filing cites not only Trump but also the secretaries of the departments of Treasury, Commerce and State in support of the urgent need for the justices to step in.

"The recent decision by the Federal Circuit is already adversely affecting ongoing negotiations," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent wrote. □

FBI seized phones, computer equipment, folders during search of Bolton's home, records show

By **ERIC TUCKER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI seized phones, computer equipment and

typed documents from the home of John Bolton as part of an investigation into whether President Donald Trump's first-term

national security adviser mishandled government secrets, according to court records unsealed Thursday.

The criminal investigation burst into view last month when agents searched Bolton's home in Bethesda, Maryland and his office in the District of Columbia. A person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to discuss the investigation by name and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity said at the time that it concerned allegations of the potential mishandling of classified information. No charges have been filed.

A coalition of news organi-

zations had urged a judge in Maryland, where the FBI had applied to a judge for a search warrant, to unseal records surrounding the search, citing a "tremendous public interest" that they said outweighed the need for continued secrecy.

Redacted documents were made public Thursday that shed new light on the investigation. Among them is a search warrant inventory showing that the FBI took from the home multiple phones, computer equipment, four boxes containing daily printed activities, typed documents in folders labeled "Trump I-IV," and other materials.

The court records also cite two criminal statutes underpinning the investigation, including laws that make it a crime to gather, transmit or lose defense information and the unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or materials.

Bolton has not spoken publicly about the circumstances of the investigation since the search, and did not return a phone message left at a number listed for him.

Bolton served for 17 months as national security adviser during Trump's first term, clashing with him over Iran, Afghanistan and North Korea, before being fired in 2019. □



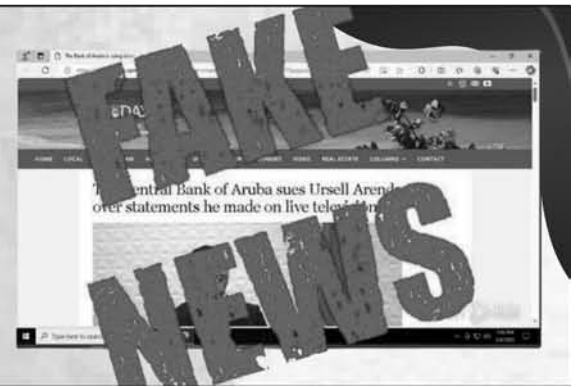
Former national security adviser John Bolton arrives at his house Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, in Bethesda, Md.

Associated Press

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Judge upbraids prosecutors for handling of D.C. surge cases, saying they have 'no credibility left'

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal magistrate judge on Thursday angrily accused top Justice Department prosecutors of trampling on the civil rights of people arrested during President Donald Trump's law-enforcement surge in the nation's capital.

Judge Zia Faruqui, a former federal prosecutor, said leaders of U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro's office have tarnished its reputation with how they are handling the deluge of cases. He said Pirro's office is routinely bringing cases that don't belong in federal court and needlessly keeping people in jail for days while they evaluate charges.

"It's not fair to say they're losing credibility. We're past that now," Faruqui said. He later added, "There's no credibility left."



U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Jeanine Pirro speaks during a news conference, Aug. 12, 2025, at the U.S. Attorney's office in Washington.

Pirro has been critical of Faruqui, one of four magistrates at the district court in Washington. On Thursday, she responded to Faruqui's

latest remarks by saying the judge "has repeatedly indicated his allegiance to those who violate the law and carry illegal guns."

"This judge took an oath to follow the law, yet he has allowed his politics to consistently cloud his judgment and his requirement to fol-

low the law," she said in a statement posted on social media. "America voted for safe communities, law and order, and this judge is the antithesis of that."

The clash between the judge and the top federal prosecutor for Washington marks an escalation in the Trump administration's ongoing showdown with the federal judiciary. Trump has repeatedly attacked the courts and challenged their authority since he returned to office in January. But it's rare for a prosecutor to publicly criticize a judge by name, as doing so could damage the office's relationship with the federal bench.

The judge lambasted Pirro's office during a hearing at which he agreed to dismiss the federal case against a man accused of threatening to kill Trump while in police custody. □

Associated Press

The U.S. will buy 2 million doses of an HIV prevention drug for low-income countries

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. is purchasing enough doses of a new twice-a-year HIV prevention shot to share with up to 2 million people in poor countries by 2028, the State Department announced Thursday.

Gilead Sciences had already announced it would sell that supply of the protective drug lenacapavir at no profit for use in low- and middle-income countries that are hard-hit by HIV. The question was who would buy and distribute them after the Trump administration slashed foreign aid earlier this year — forcing closures of health clinics and disrupting HIV testing

and care in many countries.

Under Thursday's move, the U.S. will purchase the doses under the PEPFAR program and work with governments in hard-hit countries on how to distribute them. The priority will be to protect pregnant or breastfeeding women, said Jeremy Lewin, a State department senior official.

Lewin said the program will be a collaboration with the Global Fund, another international program that funds HIV treatment and prevention efforts but wouldn't disclose how much the U.S. was investing.

"We're hoping, with the Global Fund, to help 2 mil-

lion people get on the medication over the next three years but could potentially see more," he said. There are more than 30,000 new HIV infections in the U.S. every year and 1.2 million people are living with the virus. Worldwide there are 1.3 million new infections annually and nearly 40 million people living with the virus.

Many experts say lenacapavir is the most powerful option yet for what's called PrEP using preventive medicines to guard against sexually transmitted HIV. Unlike daily pills that people may forget, each lenacapavir shot offers protection for six months. In two groundbreaking studies with peo-

ple at high risk, it nearly eliminated new infections. The drug already has been

approved for use in the U.S. and Europe. □



Demonstrators protesting against the Trump administration's withholding of federal funds for the PEPFAR program to combat HIV/AIDS march near the White House, Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

10 Alaskans born in American Samoa face voting charges in a case highlighting citizenship issues

By **MARK THIESSEN**

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) —

Ten Alaska residents faced arraignment Thursday on voter misconduct or other charges in cases that have renewed attention on the complex citizenship status of people born in the U.S. territory of American Samoa. Those facing charges — most of them related to one another — were born in American Samoa but live in the isolated Alaska community of Whittier, about 60 miles (96 kilometers) south of Anchorage. The state contends they falsely claimed U.S. citizenship when registering or attempting to vote. American Samoa is the only U.S. territory where residents are not automatically granted citizenship by being born on American soil, as the 14th Amendment to the Constitution dictates. Instead, they are considered U.S. nationals. American Samoans can serve in the military, obtain U.S. passports and vote in elections in American Samoa. But they cannot hold public office in the U.S. or participate in most U.S. elections.

A grand jury on Tuesday returned indictments with



Michael Pese and his wife Tupe Smith pose for a photo with their son Maximus and daughter Cataleya in Whittier, Alaska, May 13, 2025.

felony and misdemeanor counts, almost a year after Alaska State Troopers descended on Whittier to deliver court summonses. Some of the defendants were expected in court Thursday afternoon while others planned to attend virtually. The case is related to that of Tupe Smith, who was arrested shortly after winning election to a regional school board in 2023 and who has

been charged separately. Smith, born in American Samoa, has asserted she marked a box claiming to be a U.S. citizen at the instruction of election workers because there was no way to identify herself as a U.S. national, according to court records.

The state has said she falsely and deliberately claimed citizenship. Prosecutors pointed to the language on the voter

application forms she filled out in 2020 and 2022, which explicitly said that if the applicant was not at least 18 years old and a U.S. citizen, "do not complete this form, as you are not eligible to vote." Smith's case is before the state Court of Appeals. Attorneys for the state have argued that the question of citizenship for American Samoans "is not before this court and the voter miscon-

duct statute at issue here is not and cannot be the solution to this difficult problem." The 10 defendants in the separate case include Smith's husband, Michael Pese; his mother, who has cancer; seven other relatives; and one man who grew up in the same village in American Samoa as Michael Pese.

Matt DiTullio, an assistant public defender, said more than half the defendants are in fact U.S. citizens.

Neil Weare, an attorney for Smith, noted her appeal is pending as the other cases proceed. Weare is the co-founder of the Right to Democracy Project, an advocacy group for people from U.S. territories.

The Pacific Community of Alaska has urged Alaska's attorney general not to pursue the matter, saying even officials in Whittier and at the state level have been confused about whether American Samoans are eligible to vote and have provided people with at times incorrect information.

The group also said the state did not perform its due diligence in determining citizenship status before pursuing charges. □

Associated Press

Appeals court panel stops order to wind down operations at 'Alligator Alcatraz' in Everglades



A police officer urges Art Sennholtz, 80, center, and Christy Howard, 70, of Just Us Volusia to be careful of fast-moving traffic as they hold protest signs outside the entrance to an immigration detention center in the Florida Everglades known as "Alligator Alcatraz," Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025, in Collier County, Fla.

Associated Press

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A federal appeals court panel on

Thursday put on hold a lower court judge's order to end operations indefinitely at the immigration detention cen-

ter in the Florida Everglades dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz." The three-judge panel in Atlanta decided by a 2-1 vote to stay the federal judge's order pending the outcome of an appeal, saying it was in the public interest.

U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams in Miami issued a preliminary injunction last month ordering operations at the facility to be wound down by the end of October, with detainees transferred to other facilities and equipment and fencing removed.

Williams' decision was issued in response to a lawsuit brought by Friends of the Everglades, the Center for Biological Diversity and the Miccosukee Tribe, who accused the state and fed-

eral defendants of not following federal law requiring an environmental review for the detention center in the middle of sensitive wetlands. Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis' administration in late June raced to build the facility on an isolated airstrip surrounded by wetlands to aid President Donald Trump's efforts to deport people in the U.S. illegally. The governor said the location in the rugged and remote Everglades was meant as a deterrent against escape, much like the island prison in California that Republicans named it after.

Trump toured the facility in July and suggested it could be a model for future lock-ups nationwide as his administration pushes to expand

the infrastructure needed to increase deportations.

DeSantis said on social media Thursday, after the appellate panel issued its ruling, that claims that the facility's shutdown were imminent were false.

The Department of Homeland Security called Thursday's ruling "a win for the American people, the rule of law and common sense." "This lawsuit was never about the environmental impacts of turning a developed airport into a detention facility," DHS said in a statement. "It has and will always be about open-borders activists and judges trying to keep law enforcement from removing dangerous criminal aliens from our communities, full stop." □

Rubio says U.S. is designating 2 more gangs as foreign terrorist groups

By MATTHEW LEE, REGINA GARCIA CANO and JACQUELYN MARTIN
Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Thursday that the United States is designating two Ecuadorian gangs as foreign terrorist organizations in the Trump administration's latest move against cartels.

The announcement came as Rubio traveled to Ecuador to meet with its leaders in a trip to Latin America this week that has been overshadowed by a U.S. military strike against a similarly designated gang, Tren de Aragua, that has raised concerns in the region about whether the Trump administration will step up military activity to combat drug trafficking and illegal migration.

The two new designees, Los Lobos and Los Choneros, are Ecuadorian gangs blamed for much of the violence that began since the COVID-19 pandemic. The designation, Rubio said, brings "all sorts of options" for the U.S. government to work in conjunction with the government of Ecuador to crack down on these groups.

That includes the ability to kill them as well as take action against the properties and banking accounts



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, left, arrives to meet with Ecuador's President Daniel Noboa at the presidential palace in Quito, Ecuador, Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025.

Associated Press

in the U.S. for the group's members and people with ties to the criminal organizations, Rubio said, adding it would also help with intelligence sharing.

Rubio called them "these vicious animals, these terrorists."

"This time we're not just going to hunt for drug dealers in the little fast boats and say 'let's try to arrest them,'" Rubio said at a news conference in Ecuador's capital, Quito. "No, the president has said he wants to wage war on these groups because

they've been waging war on us for 30 years and no one has responded."

Rubio's meetings in Quito on Thursday followed talks a day earlier with Mexican leaders that were overshadowed by the U.S. military strike on suspected Tren de Aragua drug runners in the southern Caribbean. The Trump administration asserts that it targeted a Venezuelan drug-running ship crewed by members of Tren de Aragua. U.S. officials say the vessel's cargo was intended for the United States and that the

strike killed 11 people.

U.S. officials have yet to explain how the military determined that those aboard the vessel were Tren de Aragua members. Rubio on Wednesday defended the action and offered no justification other than to say the boat posed an "immediate threat" to the U.S. and that Trump opted to "blow it up" rather than follow what had been standard procedure to stop and board, arrest the crew and seize any contraband on board.

The strike got a mixed reac-

tion from leaders around Latin America, where the U.S. history of military intervention and gunboat diplomacy is still fresh. Many, like officials in Mexico, were careful not to outright condemn the attack but stressed the importance of protecting national sovereignty and warning that expanded U.S. military involvement might actually backfire.

Mexico Foreign Affairs Secretary Ramón de la Fuente, speaking to reporters alongside Rubio, emphasized his country's preference for "nonintervention, peaceful solution of conflicts."

Rubio on Thursday contested that U.S. actions were being directed more toward Venezuela, and not Mexico, because of its adversarial relation with the South American country.

"There's no need to do that in many cases with friendly governments, because the friendly governments are going to help us," Rubio told reporters. "They may do it themselves, and we'll help them do it."

Ecuador has its own issues with narcotics trafficking and also has been looked to by the Trump administration as a possible destination to deport non-Ecuadorian migrants from the United States. □

Congo's health ministry announces a new Ebola outbreak

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Congo's health ministry on Thursday announced a new Ebola outbreak, the 16th in the central African country, after a case was confirmed in the southern Kasai province.

"To date, the provisional report shows 28 suspected cases and 15 deaths, including 14 in Boulapé and 1 in Mweka, as well as four healthcare workers," said Samuel-Roger Kamba, Congo's health minister. He added that the case fatality rate, estimated at 53.6%, showed the gravity of the situation.

He said that the figures were provisional and research was ongoing. The suspected cases and deaths presented symptoms such as fever, vomiting, diarrhoea and haemorrhage.

The confirmed case was of a 34-year-old pregnant woman in the locality of Boulapé, in the southern Kasai province.

The World Health Organization said Thursday it dispatched its experts alongside Congo's Rapid Response Team to Kasai Province to strengthen disease surveillance, treatment and infection prevention and control in health facilities. It is also delivering supplies including personal protective equipment, mobile laboratory equipment and medical supplies.

Congo has a stockpile of treatments and of the Ervebo Ebola vaccine, the WHO said.

"We're acting with determination to rapidly halt the spread of the virus and protect communities," said Dr. Mohamed Janabi, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

The Ebola virus is highly contagious and can be contracted through bodily fluids such as vomit, blood, or semen. The disease it causes is a rare but severe and often fatal illness in humans. □



Health workers dressed in protective gear begin their shift at an Ebola treatment center in Beni, Congo DRC, Tuesday, July 16, 2019.

Associated Press

Death toll from Afghan earthquake jumps to more than 2,200 as aid agencies plead for funds

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP) — Hundreds more bodies have been recovered from houses in mountain villages destroyed by a major earthquake in Afghanistan early this week, pushing the death toll to over 2,200, a Taliban government spokesman said Thursday.

The shallow, 6.0-magnitude quake struck the mountainous and remote eastern part of the country late Sunday, leveling villages and trapping people under rubble. Most of the casualties have been in Kunar province, where people typically live in wood and mud-brick houses along steep river valleys separated by high mountains.

Some 98 percent of the buildings in the province were damaged or destroyed, according to an assessment issued Thursday by the Islamic Relief charity. Aid agencies said they were sorely in need of staff and supplies to tend to the region's survivors.

Muhammad Israel said the quake unleashed a landslide that buried his home, livestock, and belongings in Kunar. "All the rocks came down from the mountain," he said. "I barely got my



Villagers, survivors of Sunday night's 6.0-magnitude earthquake, wait for assistance in the village of Wadir, Kunar province, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025.

children out of there. ... The earthquake jolts are still happening. It is impossible to live there."

Late Thursday, a 5.6-magnitude quake rattled Jalalabad in Nangarhar province, which is south of the hardest-hit Kunar province, though there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

Israel was staying at a U.N. medical camp in Nurgal, one of the worst-affected districts of Kunar. "The

situation is also bad for us here, we don't have shelter and are living under open skies," he said.

Previous estimates said some 1,400 people were killed. Taliban spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat said Thursday that the updated death toll was 2,205 and that search and rescue efforts were continuing.

"Tents have been set up for people, and the delivery of first aid and emergency supplies is ongoing," Fitrat

said.

The rough terrain is hindering relief efforts. Taliban authorities have deployed helicopters and airdropped army commandos to help survivors. Aid workers have reported walking for hours to reach villages cut off by landslides and rockfall.

Funding cuts are also having an impact on the response. The Norwegian Refugee Council said it had fewer than 450 staff in Afghanistan whereas it

had 1,100 in 2023, the date of the last major quake in the country. The council only had one warehouse remaining and no emergency stock. "We will need to purchase items once we get the funding but this will take potentially weeks and people are in need now," said Maisam Shafiey, the communications and advocacy advisor for the council in Afghanistan.

"We have only \$100,000 available to support emergency response efforts. This leaves an immediate funding gap of \$1.9 million," Shafiey said.

Dr. Shamshair Khan, who was attending the injured at the U.N. camp in Nurgal, said his own condition had deteriorated after seeing the suffering of others.

"Neither these medicines are enough nor these services," he said. "These people need more medicine and tents. They need food and clean drinking water. These people are in great pain." Qatar's minister of state for international cooperation, Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad, arrived in Kabul on Wednesday to oversee the delivery of aid to earthquake victims. □

Associated Press

U.S. and Panama propose new force of 5,550 in Haiti with the power to detain gang suspects

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The United States and Panama are urging the U.N.

Security Council to authorize a 5,550-member force with the power to detain gang members in Haiti to help stop the escalating

violence.

The two countries outlined their proposal to transform the Kenya-led multinational force now deployed in the Caribbean nation into a much larger force in a draft resolution to the U.N. Security Council obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press.

The first Kenyans arrived in Haiti in June 2024 and the force was supposed to have 2,500 troops, but it has been plagued by a lack of funding and its current strength is below 1,000.

Gangs have grown in power since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021. They now

control 90% of the capital, Port-au-Prince, and have expanded their activities, including looting, kidnapping, sexual assaults and rape, into the countryside. Haiti has not had a president since the assassination.

The six-page draft resolution expresses appreciation to Kenya for leading the multinational force but reaffirms Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' finding in February that it hasn't been able to keep pace with the dramatic expansion of the gangs and needed to be scaled up.

Acting U.S. Ambassador Dorothy Shea had an-

nounced on Aug. 28 that the U.S. was seeking U.N. authorization for a new Gang Suppression Force.

The draft resolution would authorize U.N. member nations to transition the mission into such a force in cooperation with Haiti's government for an initial period of 12 months. The force would be able to detain and arrest Haitians. It states that the force would consist of 5,500 uniformed personnel and 50 civilians who would be paid from voluntary contributions. But it does not specify whether Kenya or any other country would contribute troops or police. □



Residents watch a Kenyan police armored vehicle patrolling in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025.

Associated Press

Best spots to view the sunset

(Oranjestad)—What can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset. Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.

California Light House

Of course, being one of the highest point easily accessible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

Manchebo & Eagle Beach

Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots for viewing the sunset on the beach has to be either



Manchebo Beach or at Eagle Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island starting from behind Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort up to the Amsterdam Manor roundabout. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look

so big and spacious, and paired with the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!

Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another great spot to view the sunset. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surf-

ers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple

Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back. hue.□

A guide for the perfect picture: Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're taking a stroll in the city center, and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Oranjestad is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad.

"I LOVE ARUBA"

Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA". A great first stop for a quick shot with the family, this spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park, in front of Talk of the Town Hotel. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but

while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way!

The sitting bull

Yes, you read that right; right in the heart of the city center, in front of the Crystal Casino in the Renaissance Mall, there is a black bull sitting on a bench, waiting for you to take a picture with it. Ok, so it's not a real bull, but "I took a picture with a sitting bull" sounds like a great conversation opener.

See if you can also spot the cow on the roof!

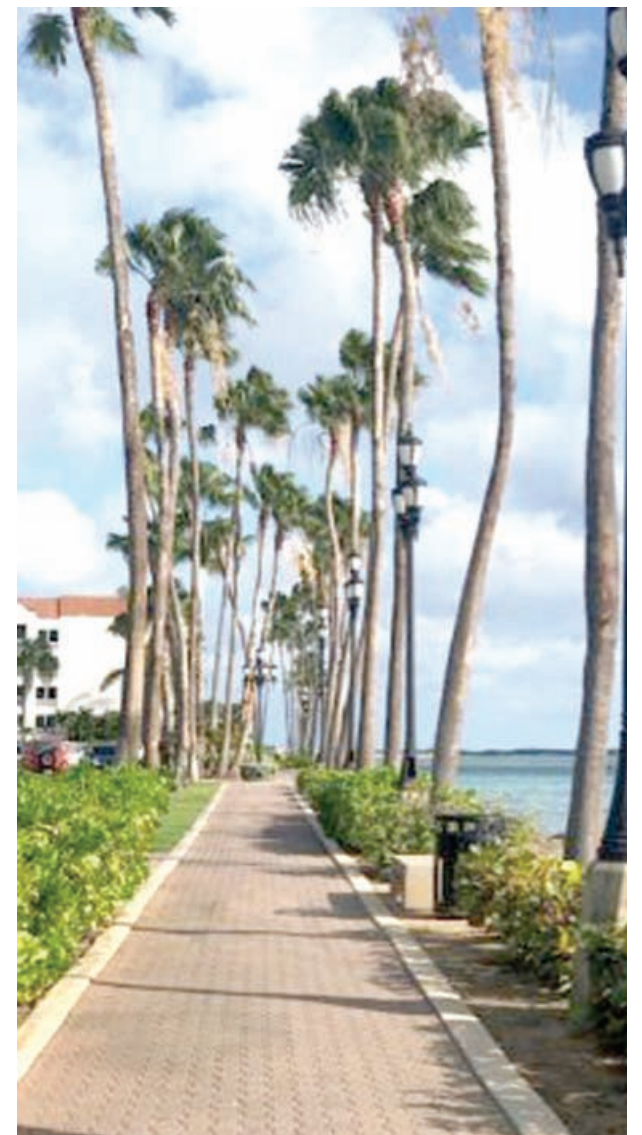
Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in front of the Renaissance Mall, check out the wooden swing on the other side of the mall on Plaza Daniel Leo. Another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram. Just pass through the Renaissance Mall and find this gem in front of the back entrance!

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

Renaissance Dock

Last but certainly not least, the Renaissance Dock is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Renaissance Market Place, and runs from the Renaissance Marina up to Renaissance Beach and Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas!□



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Aruban legends: Frenchman’s Pass



(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman’s Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman’s pass (known to locals as “Franse Pas”) remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman’s pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were

heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage

was known as Frenchman’s Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Some time after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn’t think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that the there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn’t dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel.

For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn’t some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Some time later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: “Look, there’s the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!”

French man’s pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling.

Source: visitaruba.com

Fun facts about cacti hedges “Trankera”

(Oranjestad) – When off-roading in inland Aruba, you may notice some cacti hedges around various properties or lined up by certain pathways. These man-made hedges are called “trankera” and play an important role in maintaining our flora and fauna.

The trankera dates to colonialism, where settlers established several ‘cunucu’ (farm) on the island. People either used stone walls or trankera as a fence to ward off strangers and wild animals that can feed on the cunucu vegetation or cattle.

Nowadays, trankeras are less

common, and those that still stand are often not maintained. On the surface this seems like a bad development, however this proved to be beneficial for our flora and fauna. Naturally developed flora around the hedges offers more shelter for fauna. Another aspect is the propagation process. When pruning hedges, flowers and seeds were removed, which limits propagation to a minimum.

So, though trankeras don’t play that big of a role in Aruba’s agriculture anymore, our environment still reaps the benefits of these long-standing natural structures.



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The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.



Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it

was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread

among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local

search parties. Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The

next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa & gold-mineranch.com.



Aruba to me: Michele and Carlo Pascetta

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promo-

tional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Michele and Carlo Pascetta from East Brunswick, NJ

He wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is the perfect paradise to celebrate our 48th wedding anniversary!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size
It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?



There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and

they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innova-

tive for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad

around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule.☐

Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the same, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity



that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experiences by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island,

like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural devel-

opment of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of

literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness in the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
37 High point
1 Sign of prestige
7 Second letter

DOWN
1 Crime outing
2 Dwelling
3 "Gladiator" star
4 Nova Scotian port
5 Perfect place
6 TV's Danson
7 Rhymes of rap
8 Latvia neighbor
9 New Jersey city

21 Frozen over
22 LOL, BRB, FWIW, etc.
25 Approval
26 Tampa Bay team
27 Old counter
29 Train units
33 Full range
34 Custom
35 Striker's foe
36 Ness nemesis

M	A	S	T	S		G	A	P	E	S
A	T	E	A	T		U	S	U	R	P
D	E	C	O	R		L	I	B	R	A
E	A	R		U	M	P		L	A	W
U	S	E		D	A	S		I	N	N
P	E	T	R	E	L		A	C	T	S
		S								
M	I	E	N		E	N	T	E	R	S
O	R	R		A	S		R	A	T	
N	O	V		L	E	W		V	I	E
A	N	I	M	E		E	M	I	L	E
D	I	C	E	R		R	A	C	E	R
S	C	E	N	T		S	E	E	D	S

10 Blood line
16 Melo-dramatic
18 Kudrow and Bonet
20 Walk with pride
22 Snuff stuff
23 Green soybeans
24 Manhunt target
25 Worries
28 Dice, essentially
30 Cancel a mission
31 Free of suds
32 Ranch animal
34 Possess
36 Purr producer

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
15							16			
17							18			
			19	20					21	
	22	23					24			
25							26			
27			28				29	30	31	32
33							34			
35							36			
37							38			
39							40			

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-9 CRYPTOQUOTE
O M W M F L V X R N W X R I X X O

Z X E O F Z L Z Y P H M K Q M O X .

— NYOXEF M'PMOUMH
Cryptoquote: THERE IS A TIME FOR MAKING SPEECHES, AND A TIME FOR GOING TO BED. — HOMER, "ODYSSEY"

Cruise ship Schedule: Sep 02 - 18 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
TUE	02	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	C	1
WED	10	CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00	16.00	C	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	B	1
THU	11	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	17.00	C	1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1

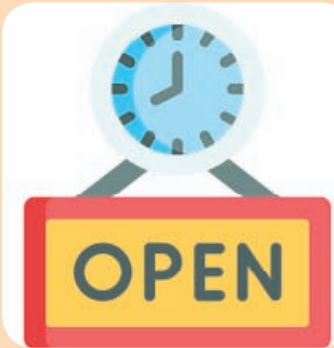
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

		6	7					
2				9			1	4
		5		8	2			
						5		
9						2	8	
			5		3		7	
5	6	7				3		
	3							
		9		3				2

Difficulty: ★★★★★

9/5

Answer to previous puzzle

6	5	7	9	2	3	1	4	8
3	4	1	8	7	6	5	9	2
8	2	9	5	1	4	6	3	7
9	6	4	3	8	5	2	7	1
5	3	2	1	6	7	4	8	9
7	1	8	4	9	2	3	6	5
2	9	3	7	4	1	8	5	6
1	8	5	6	3	9	7	2	4
4	7	6	2	5	8	9	1	3

Difficulty: ★★★

9/4

What polls show about Americans' views on childhood vaccine mandates

By LINLEY SANDERS and
AMELIA THOMSON-DE-
VEAUX

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans say kids should be vaccinated to attend school. But as Florida plans to become the first state to eliminate childhood vaccine mandates, U.S. adults are also less likely to think these immunizations are important than they were several decades ago.

Routine childhood vaccine rates are falling, and fewer Americans particularly Republicans now say it's extremely important for children to get vaccinated. Polling indicates that for the relatively small but influential group of Americans who oppose childhood vaccines, concerns about personal freedom and government influence are prominent.

Childhood vaccines prevent 4 million deaths worldwide each year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And they don't just protect individuals; they create "herd immunity" in a community. This is when enough people have immunity to stop the uncontrolled spread of a disease. It keeps everyone safe by preventing outbreaks that can sicken the vulnerable. Here's what recent surveys show about views on childhood vaccines, and how they've shifted.

Americans broadly support



Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr., appears before the Senate Finance Committee, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025

Associated Pre

vaccine mandates

Florida's move is a significant departure from decades of public policy and research that has shown vaccines to be safe and the most effective way to stop the spread of communicable diseases.

It also runs largely counter to mainstream public opinion about vaccine requirements, although some polling suggests that U.S. adults are less likely to embrace vaccine mandates than they were several decades ago. About 8 in 10 U.S. adults in a Harvard/SSRS poll from March said parents should be required to have children vaccinated against preventable diseases like measles, mumps, and rubella to attend school, including majorities of Democrats and Republicans. And about 7

in 10 U.S. adults in a New York Times/Ipsos poll said healthy children should be required to be vaccinated because of the risk to others. A 2024 Gallup poll found a narrower split, though, with about half of U.S. adults saying the government should require all parents to have their children vaccinated against contagious diseases such as measles, while just under half said the government should stay out.

That's a dramatic shift from 1991, when another poll found that 81% of Americans said the government should require childhood vaccinations.

Republicans less likely to see vaccines as important

The drop in support for childhood vaccination requirements is driven mostly by Republicans. The 2024

Gallup poll found that most Republicans, 60%, oppose government vaccine mandates. At the same time, Republicans are also less likely to see vaccines as important. In the Gallup survey, only about one-quarter of Republicans said it was "extremely important" for parents to get their children vaccinated, compared to about 6 in 10 Democrats. The two parties began to diverge on the issue before the COVID-19 pandemic, but the gap widened substantially after 2019, when Republicans became much more likely to dismiss the importance of childhood vaccinations. Slightly more than half of Americans were "extremely" or "very" concerned that more people choosing to not vaccinate their children against childhood diseases would lead to more outbreaks of infectious diseases, according to an AP.



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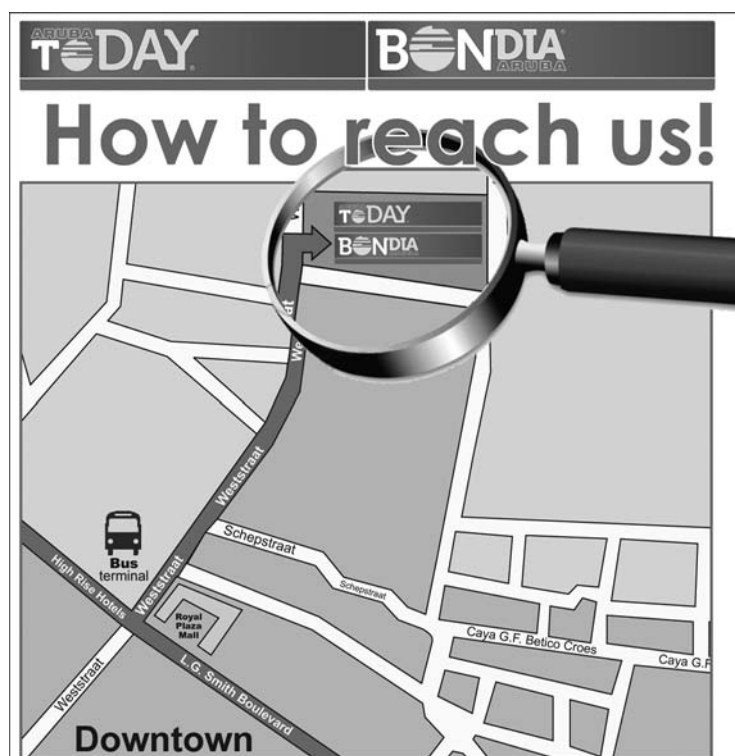
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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

del Pueblo: Tel. 582 1253

San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto: Tel. 584 4833

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Americans would save \$100B if credit card rates were capped as Trump proposed, researchers say

By **KEN SWEET**

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans would save roughly \$100 billion a year in interest costs if President Donald Trump's campaign proposal to cap credit card interest rates at 10% were implemented, according to a paper published by Vanderbilt University on Thursday.

Further, the banks and credit card companies would be able to withstand, and even still be profitable, if there were to be a national cap on interest rates. While limited in scope, the paper gives some academic backing to President Trump's campaign promise. The paper found that banks would still be able to earn a profit on most of their customers even if credit card interest rates were capped at 15%, and if the banks continued to offer rewards and perks like points and airport lounge access. If interest rates were capped at 10%, the business model gets more difficult for the banks, but they could still make money off most card customers by cutting back on some rewards.

Usury laws are as old as the Bible but have gotten traction again through Trump's populist politics. When he



was a candidate in the 2024 election, Trump proposed a temporary 10% cap on credit card interest rates. He has not spoken about it since the election.

That said, politicians have seized on the idea. Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Missouri, and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders introduced a bill in Congress that would match Trump's campaign proposal of capping interest rates at 10%. A similar bill was introduced in the House by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-New York.

There are already some inter-

est rate caps in effect in the U.S. The Military Lending Act makes it illegal to charge active servicemen and women more than 36% for any financial product. The national regulator for credit unions, the NCUA, has capped interest rates on credit union credit cards at 18%.

The banking industry is adamantly against any caps on credit card rates. Historically, the industry has argued that any cap on interest rates would decimate the credit card business model and would threaten the viability of popular rewards and

perks programs that millions of Americans use for free flights and hotel stays.

It was this rhetoric that made Brian Shearer, the author of the report, start to look into the issue. Shearer previously worked at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau as the regulator's assistant director of policy planning and strategy, working under Republican and Democratic administrations.

"I wanted to see if President Trump's proposed cap could be taken seriously, and the idea appears that it could be seriously considered

and it would not have the amount of downside that often the pundits assume there will be," Shearer said.

Americans are carrying more credit card debt than ever before, to the tune of \$1.21 trillion, or roughly \$6,400 per person. The average credit card interest rate is roughly 21%, according to data from the Federal Reserve. That's significantly higher than a decade ago, when the average credit card interest rate was roughly 12%.

Banks earn revenue from credit cards two different ways: the amount of money they charge merchants to process a credit card transaction, often referred to as interchange, and the interest and fees the banks charge customers. That could be the annual fee on a credit card, or the monthly interest that accrues when a customer carries a balance. Shearer says the revenue earned from interchange is why banks would remain profitable, even if credit card interest rates are capped. Credit card rewards programs are largely funded through interchange. American Express, for instance, earned \$35.2 billion in revenue from the fees they charge merchants. □

Google facing \$425.7 million in damages for nearly a decade of improper smartphone snooping



A sign is displayed on a Google building at their campus in Mountain View, Calif., Sept. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal jury has ordered Google to pay \$425.7 million for improperly snooping on people's smartphones dur-

ing a nearly decade-long period of intrusions. The verdict reached Wednesday in San Francisco federal court followed

a more than two-week trial in a class-action case covering about 98 million smartphones operating in the United States between July 1, 2016, through Sept. 23, 2024. That means the total damages awarded in the five-year-old case works out to about \$4 per device. Google had denied that it was improperly tracking the online activity of people who thought they had shielded themselves with privacy controls. The company maintained its stance even though the eight-person jury concluded Google had been spying in violation of California privacy laws. "This decision misunderstands how our products

work, and we will appeal it," Google spokesman Jose Castaneda said Thursday. "Our privacy tools give people control over their data, and when they turn off personalization, we honor that choice."

The lawyers who filed the case had argued Google had used the data they collected off smartphones without users' permission to help sell ads tailored to users' individual interests — a strategy that resulted in the company reaping billions in additional revenue. The lawyers framed those ad sales as illegal profiteering that merited damages of more than \$30 billion. Even though the jury came

up with a far lower calculation for the damages, one of the lawyers who brought the case against Google hailed the outcome as a victory for privacy protection.

The San Francisco jury verdict came a day after Google avoided the U.S. Department of Justice's attempt to break up the company in a landmark antitrust case in Washington, D.C., targeting its dominant search engine. A federal judge who had declared Google's search engine to be an illegal monopoly ordered less radical changes, including requiring the company to share some of its search data with rivals. □

NBA moving closer to a U.S. vs. International format for the All-Star Game, AP source says

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Having the U.S. vs. the world is getting closer to an NBA All-Star reality.

The NBA is closing in on finalizing another new format for this season's All-Star Game, one where three eight-man teams two from the U.S. and one composed of international players would square off in a round-robin tournament, a person with knowledge of the plan said Wednesday. The league's competition committee has reviewed details of the plan and reacted positively to the concept, said the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the format has not been finalized by the league.

Having 16 All-Stars from the U.S. and eight from other countries would be in line with the current breakdown of NBA players.

An idea of having a simple U.S. vs. World game has also been talked about, but Commissioner Adam Silver said that would be difficult simply because the league has more American players than it has international players. The league is about 70% American,



Greece's Giannis Antetokounmpo, left, and Spain's Joel Parra go for the ball during the Eurobasket, European Basketball Championship Group C match between Spain and Greece at Spyros Kyprianou Arena, in Limassol, Cyprus, Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025.

Associated Press

30% international, and that would roughly be the same breakdown of All-Stars this coming season under the proposed plan.

The league has been heading in this direction for several months, especially after last season's All-Star mini-tournament untimed games to 40 points, with four teams of eight players each was a flop.

Silver has wanted a more

competitive All-Star format for years.

Nobody has been willing to play much in the way of defense at the game in recent seasons a 211-186 game in 2024 was the last straw there so the league tried the tournament plan this past season.

But after seeing how hockey's 4 Nations Face-Off a tournament that was capped by a U.S. vs. Cana-

da final and essentially took the place of the NHL All-Star Game earlier this year was a huge hit, NBA executives and players alike wondered aloud if it was time for their midseason showcase game to adopt the U.S. vs. The World plan.

And All-Star weekend this season just happens to fall at a time when cheering for one's home country will be going on all over the

world.

The 2026 All-Star Game to be played Feb. 15 at the LA Clippers' Intuit Dome in Inglewood, California is happening just past the midpoint of the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics.

It will be moved from its traditional prime time Sunday night slot to one that starts on Sunday afternoon. That's happening because the game will be aired on NBC under the terms of the new 11-year media rights deals that kick in this season. NBC is also the Olympic broadcaster in the U.S. NBC's plan is to show Olympic events in the morning and early afternoon, then the All-Star Game, then have prime-time Olympic programming.

Top international players like San Antonio's Victor Wembanyama (France) and Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo (Greece) have said multiple times that they would welcome a U.S.-vs.-world matchup. U.S. Olympic gold medalist Draymond Green of Golden State also said last season that, based on how 4 Nations went, he thought such an idea would work for the NBA. □

For decades, U.S. Open women's champs got a smaller replica trophy than the men. Now they're equal

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Coco Gauff was surprised at how much tinier the replica trophy she got to keep after winning this year's French Open was than the trophy she posed with on court at Roland-Garros for all the world to see. She even did a TikTok about the discrepancy, drawing more than 2 million views.

Why was Gauff so taken aback by what she called the "miniature version"? "I honestly did not know the size it was going to be. ... I know you never really take the original, but when I won the U.S. Open, they gave me the same size (trophy),

with my name engraved on it," Gauff told The Associated Press. "So I just assumed that Roland Garros would be the same."

Actually, it turns out Gauff's 2023 championship at the U.S. Open marked the first time the women's singles winner in New York was given a silver cup significantly larger than the one that is used in the postmatch ceremony. Her replica hardware is 19 1/2 inches tall, the same as both the original and keepsake men's trophies and 7 1/2 inches bigger than the original women's trophy.

That one, like the original men's, is displayed during the tournament in a locked

glass box near where players enter the event's main arena and will be briefly handed to, then taken away from, whoever wins the women's final in Arthur Ashe Stadium this Saturday. From 1987, when the tradition of providing keepsakes at Flushing Meadows began, until two years ago, the female champion took home a 12-inch-tall copy. But the U.S. Tennis Association asked Tiffany & Co. to create replicas for the women to match the size of what the men are allowed to keep.

That change coincided with the 50th anniversary of the tournament's 1973 move to pay equal prize

money to women and men at then-player Billie Jean King's urging.

"Equality is in our DNA here at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. □



Stacey Allaster, U.S. Open tournament director and chief executive of professional tennis at the U.S. Tennis Association, poses for a photo with the women's keepsake trophy left, and presentation trophy, during an interview at the U.S. Open tennis championships, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025, in New York.

Associated Press

Chiefs and Chargers clash in Brazil as NFL season kicks off

By **BETH HARRIS**
AP Sports Writer

Once again, the Kansas City Chiefs open the season coming off a Super Bowl.

This time is different, though. They're not the champions. Last year, the Chiefs were trying to become the first team in NFL history to win three straight Super Bowls. But they got blown out 40-22 by the Philadelphia Eagles.

Already one of the NFL's dynasties, the Chiefs are looking to add to their lore heading into the season opener on Friday night against the Los Angeles Chargers in Brazil, the second NFL game in South America.

"We got a lot of guys that are super hungry and want to go out there and put on a show," Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said.

The Chargers have their own motivation, having lost seven straight to the Chiefs. "Two opposing wills meeting each other," second-year Chargers coach Jim Harbaugh said. "If you don't like the challenge, you don't like to compete."

Harbaugh guided the Chargers to a wild-card appearance last season while reviving a woebe-gone franchise that had single-digit wins in four of five previous seasons. He



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes cheers from the sidelines during the second half of a preseason NFL football game against the Chicago Bears Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, in Kansas City, Mo.

overhauled the roster and implemented a culture change.

"He wants to win all the time," said wide receiver Keenan Allen, who is back with the Chargers after a season in Chicago.

While the Chiefs have owned the AFC West for the last nine seasons, the Chargers haven't won a playoff game since the 2018 season and quarterback Justin Herbert has no playoff victories on his resume.

Allen, one of Herbert's favorite targets during their previous run together, sees

a more comfortable Herbert since their recent reunion.

"Everything has slowed down for him and he's composed and more confident," Allen said.

Mahomes and the Chiefs are looking to set the tone for the season with a win over their division rival.

"I feel like we've gotten better and better and better each year," Chiefs cornerback Trent McDuffie said, "and I think guys are comfortable now. We brought back most of the defense, and we all kind of know how each other

plays. I always say Coach Spags' (Steve Spagnuolo) thing this year, 'Be bold, be great,' like that's truly just what we want to be."

Defensive defects

The biggest concern on defense for the Chiefs comes in stopping the run. In fact, they had to reacquire defensive tackle Derrick Nnadi in a trade with the Jets last week after they were unsatisfied with their performance up front in the preseason.

Slip slidin' away

Everyone from Los Angeles Lakers superstar LeBron James to retired NFL play-

er J.J. Watt weighed in on the spotty field conditions at Arena Corinthians during last year's game at the same soccer stadium in Sao Paulo. Players on the Green Bay Packers and Philadelphia Eagles struggled to keep their footing on the field, with some falling or slipping on the mix of natural grass and synthetic fibers.

Chargers running back Najee Harris said slippery conditions are "extremely difficult" because of the force he exerts making cuts.

Typically, players wear cleats with short rubber or plastic studs to provide safe traction. He'll have screw-in cleats available, which have studs that are threaded into the sole, allowing players to change the length of the studs to match different playing conditions.

Skip the Rice

The Chiefs will play without No. 1 wide receiver Rashee Rice, who is serving the first game in a six-game suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy, and rookie Jalen Royals, who is dealing with a knee injury.

That means they will lean heavily on second-year pro Xavier Worthy and Marquise Brown, who missed most of last season with a shoulder injury. □

\$80 million in NIL approved by newly launched College Sports Commission



The NCAA logo is displayed at center court at The Consol Energy Center in Pittsburgh, March 18, 2015.

Associated Press

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
AP National Writer

The new College Sports Commission has cleared more than 8,300 name, image and likeness deals worth nearly \$80 million, it said Thursday in its first full update on how the new system is working.

The commission, which is in charge of approving contracts worth \$600 or more between college athletes and third-party companies that pay them, said 28,342 students signed up on its NIL Go platform between June 11, when it launched, and Aug. 31. Nearly 3,200 "representatives" or agents had also signed up.

The platform was created as part of the House settlement, which allows schools to pay athletes directly for their NIL, while also offering them a chance to make money from outside groups. NIL Go is in charge of analyzing the outside deals.

"The initial report shows the new system is working as intended," said Bryan Seeley, the CEO of the commission.

The report said 332 deals had not been cleared to date and 75 had been resubmitted, while none had entered arbitration, which is available for parties who feel their deals have been wrongly rejected. The commission said the most common clearance issues were delays in attesting to or providing required information; contradictory deal terms, misreporting of deal terms or mistakes in entering deal terms; and deals that don't satisfy the "valid business purpose" requirement that caused confusion when the platform first rolled out.

The CSC said values of the deals ranged as high as \$1.8 million. It said its "deal flow reports" will be updated on a regular basis. □